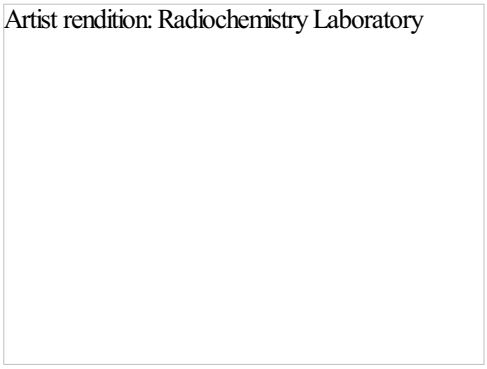
INL awards construction contract for new laboratory at Site

Idaho National Laboratory has awarded a contract to Eagle Rock Timber of Idaho Falls to build a new radiochemistry laboratory (RCL) at the Materials and Fuels Complex on the INL desert Site. Groundbreaking is scheduled this spring with the facility slated to open in February 2009.

The laboratory is estimated to cost $5 million and will consolidate activities from existing laboratories. The new lab's ongoing research will support several INL program areas including the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative, National and Homeland Security, and research in partnership with industry, other laboratories, university and international organizations.

"The new radiochemistry laboratory is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's and INL's effort to upgrade our research facilities to continue meeting our ongoing missions. The laboratory will provide our scientists with the modern facilities to support our advanced research and to provide the working environment expected at a preeminent national laboratory," said Terry Todd, director of the Fuel Cycle Science and Technology Division.



An artist rendering of the new facility.

Todd said the RCL will consolidate research activities now performed in a number of older buildings at the Reactor Technology Complex at the Site that are scheduled to be demolished this year as part of the Idaho Cleanup Project. Research equipment and instrumentation will be moved from current laboratory locations into the RCL.

Among the functions to be relocated in the RCL are chemical and laboratory-scale testing of advanced fuel recycle technologies. The RCL will consolidate the fuel cycle division activities at one location.

The RCL will be a modern facility, designed to minimize maintenance requirements over its life. Additionally, the RCL will be designed and constructed as a 'green' building that will use recyclable building materials and implement energy-efficient features to support the DOE's goals and objectives to reduce electrical power usage.

General Contact:
John Walsh, (208) 526-8646

Feature Archive